

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 046556
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:HPRECHT:BDF
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
PM:RERICSON
H:BATWOOD (SUBS)
S/S-O - S. GOLDSMITH
DOD/DSAA:EVON MARBOD (SUBS)
T:LBENSON

-----123390 230126Z /73

O 230109Z FEB 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 046556

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED F-5 SALE TO EGYPT

REFS: A. STATE 39498; B. USDAO CAIRO 211402Z, FEB 78

1. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS NORMAL PRACTICE FOR DOD TO CONSULT WITH PURCHASING GOVERNMENT ON AIRCRAFT CONFIGURATION BEFORE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS ARE SIGNED. F-5S FOR EGYPT, HOWEVER, PRESENT A SPECIAL PROBLEM.

2. AS REF B INDICATES, WE ARE PRESENTING EGYPTIAN F-5 PRIMARILY AS AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND SECDEF TOLD PRESS
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ON BACKGROUND THAT EGYPTIAN F-5S WOULD NOT BE EQUIPPED WITH MAVERICK MISSILE. IN PREPARING Q'S AND A'S WE ARE ALSO PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT F-5S WILL NOT BE CONFIGURED FOR LASER-GUIDED BOMBS OR AIR REFUELING CAPABILITY. NONE OF THESE THREE SYSTEMS IS STANDARD ON F-5S IN OTHER AIR FORCES, ALTHOUGH SAUDIS DO POSSESS THESE CAPABILITIES WITH THEIR F-5S. CLEARLY OUR PRESENTATION TO

CONGRESS WOULD BE COMPLICATED IF WE WERE TO PUT FORWARD EGYPTIAN F-5S AS BEING AUGMENTED BY MAVERICK, LGBS AND AIR REFUELING.

3. WE HAVE ASSUMED GOE AWARE OF FOREGOING AND THAT OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY TO THIS EFFECT ARE CONSISTENT WITH EGYPTIAN EXPECTATIONS. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT EGYPTIAN VIEWS REFLECTED IN REF B DO NOT INDICATE WE HAVE SOME POTENTIAL PROBLEMS. SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE, WE NEED YOUR VIEWS URGENTLY ON BEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS IN CAIRO ASAP. AS YOU KNOW, NOW THAT WE HAVE LAUNCHED OUR AIRCRAFT PACKAGE, WE ARE BOUND TO STICK WITH OUR DESCRIPTIONS OF PURPOSES AND CONFIGURATION OF F-5S. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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